Atty Dkt No. LEAR 04946 PUS

S/N: 10/800,548

Reply to Office Action of August 31, 2005

Remarks

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed August 31, 2005, the

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and that the case pass to issue

in light of the amendments above and the remarks below. By this paper, independent claim

7 has been amended and claims 1-6 and 18-20 have been canceled, such that claim 7-17 are

pending, with claims 15-17 being withdrawn for being directed to non-elected subject matter.

The Examiner has set forth the following rejections: the disclosure is objected

to for including a informality; claims 7-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as

being anticipated by USPN 4,929,017 to Lilienthal (hereinafter the Lilienthal patent); and

claims 7-9, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN

6,213,538 to Scheidmantel (hereinafter the Scheidmantel).

The Examiner has noted that claims 10 and 13 are objected to as being

dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form to include all of the limitations of the associated base claim and any

intervening claims.

Objection to Specification

The Applicants submit that the amendment to the specification obviate this

objection.

Rejection of Claims 7-9 and 12

Under 102(b) Over the Lilienthal Patent

Independent claim 7 has been amended to include limitations directed towards

a foam layer comprising a poured foam material directly bonded to the second substrate and

not the first substrate. The Lilienthal patent discloses that the foam is injected into the armrest

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cavity after the insert has been inserted thereto, such that the foam must necessarily bond to both the armrest and the insert.

As such, the Lilienthal patent cannot teach that the foam layer is bonded to the second substrate and not the first substrate, as recited in independent claim 7. Consequently, independent claim 7, and dependent claims 8-14, which depend therefrom include all of the limitations thereof, are patentable and nonobvious over the cited reference.

Rejection of Claims 7-9, 11, and 14 Under 102(b) Over the Scheidmantel Patent

Independent claim 7 has been amended to include limitations directed towards a foam layer comprising a poured foam material directly bonded to the second substrate. The Scheidmantel patent discloses the use of a dye cut foam which is attached to an insert via an adhesive layer. The dye cut foam is not a poured foam and the adhesive layer prevents directly bonding the foam to the insert.

As such, the Scheidmantel patent fails to disclose that the foam layer comprises a poured foam material directly bonded to the second substrate, as recited in independent claim 7. Consequently, independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8-14, which depend therefrom and include all of the limitations thereof, are patentable and nonobvious over the cited reference.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that each rejection has been fully replied to and traversed and that the case is in condition to pass to issue. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue and is invited to contact the undersigned if it would further prosecution of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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